

The H N J A B

Newsletter

THE VOICE OF THE HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

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1985 H.N.B.A. Convention Held In Los Angeles

The Annual Convention of the Hispanic National Bar Association was held in Los Angeles, California, October 5-6, 1984. The Convention drew over two hundred hispanic attorneys from throughout the U.S. to participate in a variety of workshops and hear various speakers, including former Governor of California, Jerry Brown, and the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Alan C. Nelson.

The Convention was co-hosted by the Mexican-American Bar Association and California La Raza Lawyers, with the active involvement of the Cuban-American Bar Association of Los Angeles. This marked the first H.N.B.A. convention with a significant participation of Cuban-American attorneys. The H.N.B.A. directorate is making a concerted effort to involve hispanic attorneys from all groups and geographical areas of the country in its membership.

Governor Brown addressed the convention at an Awards Dinner honoring Cruz Reynoso, Justice of the California Supreme Court. Justice Reynoso received the Lincoln-Juarez Award which recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of civil rights for Hispanics in the U.S.

The president-elect of the American Bar Association

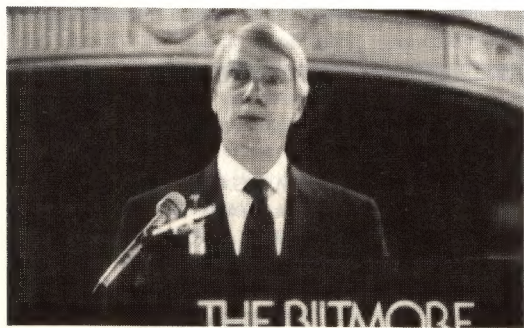


H.N.B.A. President, Mari Carmen Aponte welcomes former Governor of California, Jerry Brown.

William W. Falsgraf spoke at a convention luncheon. Mr. Falsgraf told the audience that the growth of local hispanic bar organizations and of the H.N.B.A. clearly indicates that the established bars are not fully meeting the needs of those attorneys. He expressed his personal interest in having the A.B.A. work cooperatively with the H.N.B.A. to meet those needs.

I.N.S. Commissioner Alan C. Nelson participated in a workshop on Current Issues in Immigration. Even as the workshop was in progress the Congress was in the midst of consideration of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill. Commissioner Nelson expressed the Administration's view of support for the bill as a much needed though imperfect response to the issues of illegal immigration and the plight of undocumented persons living and working in this country for many years. Expressing an opposing view on the panel was John E. Huerta, an attorney with the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (M.A.L.D.E.F.). Mr. Huerta's reply to the Commissioner was that the bill would do very little to stem the flow of illegal immigration and would benefit only a small fraction of undocumented persons already living in the U.S. Additionally Mr. Huertas argued the employer sanctions provisions of the bill would result in employment discrimination against all hispanics.

The 1985 H.N.B.A. Convention is scheduled to be held in New York City on September 6-7, 1985.



A.B.A. President-elect William Falsgraf speaks at H.N.B.A. Convention in Los Angeles.

The H.B.A. offered a seminar on drunk driving cases last November. Conducted by Newark Municipal Court Judge Julio Fuentes, it included a demostracion by a state trooper of the breathalyzer used by most police forces to test for blood alcohol content. A mock trial of a drunk driving case under the new statute was presided by Judge Fuentes, H.B.A. members Myrna Milan and Julio Sanchez acted as prosecutor and defense counsel respectively. Judge Fuentes also presented an update on drunk driving laws.



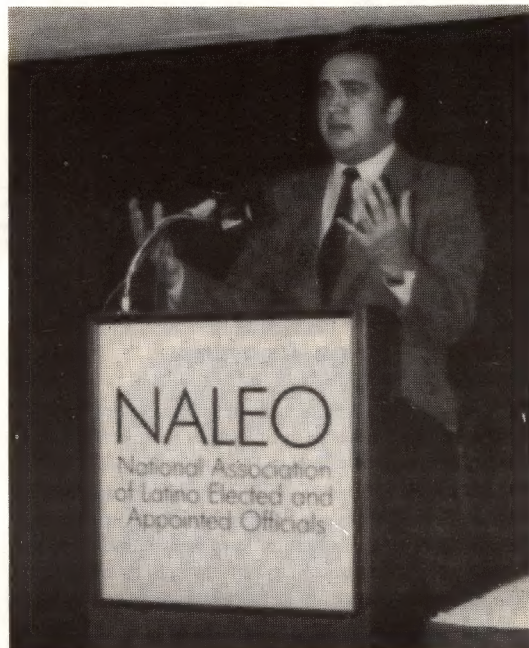
An organizing committee has begun planning the 1985 Hispanic National Bar Association Convention which will be held in New York City on September 6-7, 1985. Anyone interested in working on the convention should contact committee members Margarita Echevarria: 201-481-8334 or Grissele Camacho-Pagan: 201-549-3553.

William Agrait has gone into private practice at 561 Broad Street, Newark, N.J. He was formerly the deputy director of F.O.C.U.S. in Newark.

Myrna Milan former municipal prosecutor in Elizabeth is now an associate in Blume, Vazquez, Goldfaden, Berkowitz & Oliveras, 5 Commerce St., Newark, N.J.

N.A.L.E.O. Reception in Newark

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) hosted a reception at the Gateway Hilton in Newark on November 28, 1984.



Congressman Bill Richardson of Texas speaks at NALEO reception in Newark.

NALEO is a national Hispanic advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., which promotes the participation of hispanics in the electoral process at all levels of elected office.

Welcoming remarks were given by Grisel Ubarry who works for the administration of Essex County Executive Peter Shapiro as head of the division of economic development. The main speaker was Congressman Bill Richardson, a hispanic representative from Texas. Other speakers included Dr. Harry Pachon, Executive Director of NALEO, County Executive Peter Shapiro, and Newark Mayor Kenneth Gibson.

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

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JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

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NALEO publishes a national roster of hispanic elected officials which includes officials' name, addresses, titles and other relevant information. Inquiries about the Roster may be addressed to N.A.L.E.O. Education Fund, 504 C Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

* PRACTICING ATTORNEY *

Beginning in this issue, this column will offer informational articles, pointers and guidelines intended to assist the practicing attorney in a variety of areas of law and office management.



H.B.A. members Margarita Echevarria, Hector De Soto and Grissele Camacho-Pagan at NALEO reception.

Annual Dinner Dance

The H.B.A. Fourth Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner was held in Newark on November 2, 1984. Bill Bradley, U.S. Senator from New Jersey attended the pre-dinner reception and spoke about the growth of the hispanic population in New Jersey and of the important role which hispanic attorneys have to play in the development of our community.

At the dinner program, the Hon. Julio Fuentes was master of ceremonies. Mayor Kenneth Gibson welcomed the H.B.A. to his city which for the first time hosted the event. New Jersey Public Advocate Joseph Rodriguez was keynote speaker of the evening, graciously filling in for Chief Justice Wilentz who had to withdraw his acceptance to speak because of the fund raising nature of the activity. Two distinguished New Jersey citizens were recognized for their contributions to the hispanic community: Dr. Hilda Hidalgo, Professor, Rutgers University and Perth Amboy attorney, Mathias "Eddie" Rodriguez.

The evening's program was concluded with the presentation of scholarship checks to the 1984 recipients, Luis Acevedo, a third year student at Seton Hall Law School and Angel Lahera, a first year student at Rutgers Law School, Newark. The program was followed by dancing to the music of Primitivos Santos and his band.

Custody Disputes Across International Lines

The attorney who has a practice in family law or immigration occasionally represents parties involved in a dispute over the custody of minors, where one party either has or threatens to remove the child from the country. The U.S. Department of State offers some services which may assist you in such cases.

For example, the Department may deny the issuance of an American passport to a minor upon the request of your client. The request must be made in writing and provide at a minimum the complete name, date and place of birth of the minor, and the minor's relationship to the person requesting that a passport not be issued. Requests should be addressed to the Office of Citizenship Appeals and Legal Assistance (PPT/C), Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. If the minor is abroad, the request should be sent to the nearest American Embassy or consulate. A request that a minor not be issued a passport without the consent of the custodial parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a copy of the court order awarding custody of the minor to that parent or guardian. A passport may also be denied to a minor child at the written request of a non-custodial parent if that parent submits a copy of a court order which prohibits the minor's departure from the particular jurisdiction. Unless there has been a judicial award of custody to the objecting parent or a restraining order prohibiting the child's departure from the particular jurisdiction, the parent's objection will not prevent issuance of a passport which was applied for with the consent of the other parent. Nevertheless, a notice can still be entered so that the objecting parent can be notified if a passport application is executed.

For further information on this subject you may send for publication M-401, 11-80, from the Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524.





H.B.A Christmas Party

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 19 - Cocktail Reception

May 18 - Seminar Arbitration Proceedings Under No
Fault General Membership Meeting

June 30 - Summer Outing

September 28 - General Membership Dinner

Election of Officers & Board Members

November 16 - Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance

December 6 - Christmas Party

The above dates are tentative; a mailing will be sent for each event with the exact location, time, etc. If you are interested in working on any of these events call Hector Velazquez at: (201) 656-4200.

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